

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5851  
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001  
FISHERMEN IN PAKISTANI JAILS  
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government are aware that 196 fishermen from Gujarat are currently in Pakistani Jail, it has always been an emotive issue in Gujarat's fishing towns, fishermen from these ports towns are often arrested by the Pakistani Navy on charges of straying into Pak waters and made to spend years in Jails, mostly in Karachi;
- (b) if so, whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat had written a letter to the Union Government urging to discuss and settle the issue with Mr. Musharraf in the ensuing visit to India; and;
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Government on the said request?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

- (a): As per available information, there are 196 Indian fishermen currently detained in Pakistan since March/April this year. As a result of our consistent efforts, Government of Pakistan agreed on 26.6.2001 to release these 196 Indian fishermen.
- (b): The Chief Minister of Gujarat wrote a letter to Prime Minister on June 20, 2001 urging him to discuss with President General Musharraf the recurring problem of apprehension of fishermen by each other's security agencies.
- (c): Desirous of finding a permanent solution of the problems of Indian and Pakistani fishermen, who from time to time are taken in to custody, Prime Minister on July 4 instructed that the Indian Coast Guards will not in future take Pakistani fishermen, who inadvertently transgress into our waters, in custody and that hence forth they will be turned back after due warning. During discussions in Agra on 15.7.2001 Prime Minister informed Pakistani President that this is the way out of the recurring problem which would go a long way in resolving this matter on a permanent basis.